

## Employment Assistance for Citizens With Disabilities

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department's (SCVRD) mission is to enable eligible South Carolinians with disabilities to prepare for, achieve, and maintain competitive employment. The Department provides services to citizens with disabilities to assist them in becoming employed in businesses throughout the State. Clients may receive various services to include: instructional classes geared towards employment readiness, training, inpatient treatment for alcohol/substance abuse, rehabilitation technology, and job placement. SCVRD also provides confidential services to employees who are experiencing work difficulties as a result of a disability related impediment. Counselors assist employees to identify impediments and enable them to make necessary changes.

If you would like more information concerning these programs, please contact Laura Spears, Business Relations Consultant at (803) 896-6509 or you may visit the website at [www.scvrd.net](http://www.scvrd.net).

## Employee Recognition Week

Public Service Recognition Week, celebrated the first week in May since 1985, is a time to set aside to educate Americans on the types of services provided by government. In order to recognize state employees State Employee Recognition Day was initiated in 2001 by the National Association of State Personnel Executives (NASPE) and the National Governor's Association (NGA). NASPE and NGA joined forces to recognize the contributions of state employees. State Employee Recognition Day is an opportunity to express appreciation to State Employees at a time when their dedication is more valued and appreciated than ever. State

Employee Recognition Day is May 4, 2005. The following state agencies will offer discounts to recognize Public Service Week:

- The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will offer a 15% discount on all of their gift items. Employees may use the discount by visiting DNR's gift shops or by selecting items via DNR's online catalog at [www.scwildlife.com](http://www.scwildlife.com) and then placing a credit card order toll-free at (888) 644-9453.
- The Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism will offer a 10% discount on May 4th at gift shops at The State House and The Governor's Mansion.
- The Cotton Mill Exchange at the S.C. State Museum will offer a 10% discount to state employees on May 4th. Visit the Cotton Mill Exchange in person on May 4th or select items online at [www.museum.state.sc.us](http://www.museum.state.sc.us) or call (803) 898-4967 or (803) 898-4968 to place a credit card order. All state employees who are members of the S.C. State Museum will receive this 10% discount in addition to the 10% they currently receive as members.
- The Gift Shop at Patriots Point will also offer a 20% store discount to all state employees during National Public Service Recognition week.
- The Walker Hall Gift Shop at the School for the Deaf and the Blind will also be offering a discount to all state employees in the amount of 15% on May 4th.

## Department of Natural Resources STARS

The Department of Natural Resources has established the STARS program for employees that have retired from the Department. STARS stands for Staying Together After Retirement. John Frampton, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources, believes retirees are an

important part of the Department's history and feels the importance in recognizing and maintaining a relationship with them. As a way to honor the retirees, DNR hosted four kickoff luncheons across the State in January and February. There will be many upcoming events to allow former employees the opportunity to stay in touch and continue to be an asset to the Department. If you would like more information concerning this program, you may contact Linda Campbell at (803) 734-3837.

## New OHR Website

OHR has launched a revised website at [www.ohr.sc.gov](http://www.ohr.sc.gov).

In the new website, OHR has arranged information into four different categories: State Agency; Job Applicant; Current State Employee; and Statistical Information. This structure was developed to allow our customers to easily access information and to better address our customers' individual needs.

We hope you will find the new website informative and helpful. If you should have any questions, please contact us at (803) 737-0900.

## Remaining 2005 Holidays

Confederate Memorial Day .....	Tuesday, May 10
National Memorial Day .....	Monday, May 30
Independence Day .....	Monday, July 4
Labor Day .....	Monday, September 5
Veterans Day .....	Friday, November 11
Thanksgiving Day .....	Thursday, November 24
Day after Thanksgiving .....	Friday, November 25
Christmas Day .....	Monday, December 26
Day After Christmas .....	Tuesday, December 27

## Legislation Concerning State Employees

If you are interested in following a bill in the legislature concerning State employees, you may go to our website at [www.ohr.sc.gov/OHR/legupdate/OHR-legbegin.phtml](http://www.ohr.sc.gov/OHR/legupdate/OHR-legbegin.phtml).